

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this week, from April 1-7, we are celebrating the 43rd anniversary of "National Library Week." As a strong and vigorous supporter of Federal initiatives to strengthen and protect libraries, I am pleased to take this opportunity to draw my colleagues' attention to this important occasion and to take a few moments to reflect on the significance of libraries to our nation.

When the free public library came into its own in this country in the 19th century, it was, from the beginning, a unique institution because of its commitment to the same principle of free and open exchange of ideas as the Constitution itself. Libraries have always been an integral part of all that our country embodies: freedom of information, an educated citizenry, and an open and enlightened society. They are the only public agencies in which the services rendered are intended for, and available to, every segment of our society.

It has been my longstanding view that libraries play an indispensable role in our communities. From modest beginnings in the mid-19th century, today's libraries provide well-stocked reference centers and wide-ranging loan services based on a system of branches, often further supplemented by traveling libraries serving outlying districts. Libraries promote the reading of books among adults, adolescents, and children and provide the access and resources to allow citizens to obtain reliable information on a vast array of topics.

Libraries gain even further significance in this age of rapid technological advancement where they are called upon to provide not only books and periodicals, but many other valuable resources as well. In today's society, libraries provide audio-visual materials, computer services, internet access terminals, facilities for community lectures and performances, tapes, records, videocassettes, and works of art for exhibit and loan to the public. In addition, special facilities libraries provide services for older Americans, people with disabilities, and hospitalized citizens.

Of course, libraries are not merely passive repositories of materials. They are engines of learning—the place where a spark is often struck for disadvantaged citizens who for whatever reason have not had exposure to the

vast stores of knowledge available. I have the greatest respect for those individuals who are members of the library community and work so hard to ensure that our citizens and communities continue to enjoy the tremendous rewards available through our library system and work to provide additional funding to help keep libraries open.

My own State of Maryland has 24 public library systems providing a full range of library services to all Maryland citizens and a long tradition of open and unrestricted sharing of resources. This policy has been enhanced by the State Library Network which provides interlibrary loans to the State's public, academic, special libraries and school library media centers. The Network receives strong support from the State Library Resource Center at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Regional Library Resource Centers in Western, Southern, and Eastern Shore counties, and a Statewide database of holdings totaling 178 libraries.

The State Library Resource Center alone gives Marylanders free access to approximately 2 million books and bound magazines, over 1 million U.S. Government documents, 600,000 documents in microform, 11,000 periodicals, 90,000 maps, 20,000 Maryland State documents, and over 19,000 videos and films.

The result of this unique joint State-County resource sharing is an extraordinary level of library services available to the citizens of Maryland. Marylanders have responded to this outstanding service with 54.7 percent of the State's population registered as library patrons. Additionally, the total holdings of catalogued and uncatalogued book volumes, video and audio recordings, periodicals, electronic formats, and serial volumes have increased by 1 million from 1998 to 2000 to total over 16.5 million in library resources.

I have had a close working relationship with members of the Maryland Library Association and others involved in the library community throughout the State, and I am very pleased to join with them and citizens throughout the nation in this week's celebration of "National Library Week." I look forward to a continued close association with those who enable libraries to provide the unique and vital services available to all Americans.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MAGAZINE PRAISES RJR AS A BEST PLACE TO WORK

• Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, a great many of us who live in tobacco-producing states, and particularly North Carolina, whose tobacco farmers for years have produced quality tobacco

mainly flue-cured but some burley, are proud of our fine farmers many of whom harvest an enormous amount of excellent food and fiber products.

We are grateful for North Carolina's tobacco companies which paved the way for our State's becoming national leaders in business, banking, and manufacturing of many kinds.

Charlotte is the second largest banking center in America. The Bank of America is headquartered there.

Some time ago Fortune Magazine announced that its annual survey had confirmed that R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company of Winston-Salem is one of the 100 best companies in America to work for. The Chairman and CEO of RJR, Andrew J. Schindler, states that the key reason why Reynolds Tobacco won the award is, "It's our people. Without the hard work, creative energy, pride and dedication of our employees, RJR could not be successful."

Then Mr. Schindler added: "The real secret to Reynolds Tobacco's success is that our employees stand together as a close corporate family, and that's what makes our company stand apart from the crowd. This company is filled with extraordinary people, making Reynolds Tobacco an extraordinarily good place to work," Schindler stressed.

There's a point in all of this that ought not to go unnoticed like a ship passing in the night: Some of the trial lawyers, seeking to line their pockets with hundreds of thousands of dollars in court-awarded cash, have portrayed tobacco companies as villains and the corporate leaders of those companies as crooks. Contrived lawsuits have fluttered from the offices of intellectually dishonest trial lawyers portraying the company leaders as dishonest men and women with evil intent. This is simply not so, and those trial lawyers know it's not so.

Nobody in my family smokes, but one of them was indignant several months ago at some of the false declarations of some of the trial lawyers. She said: "I'm sorry for anyone whose health has declined because of smoking or whatever cause, but I've never heard of an instance where anybody started smoking because a gun was pointed at his head."•

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following concurrent resolutions were discharged pursuant to Public Law 93-344, and placed on the Calendar:

S. Con. Res. 20. Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002.

H. Con. Res. 83. Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011.